

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISTANB 02519 071355Z

46

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 NEA-10 /136 W
----- 039247

P R 071133Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7598

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 2519

39 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORLPLOS TU GR

SUBJECT: GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH VESSEL MTA SISMİK I

BEGINS SEA TRIALS

REF (A) ISTANBUL 2339 (B) ANKARA 5029

1. TURKISH PRESS REPORTS JULY 7 THAT GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH
VESSEL MTA SISMİK I (FORMERLY "HORA") HAS COMPLETED DOCKSIDE
TESTS. THEY SHOW PHOTOGRAPHS OF VESSEL IN WATER AND NOTE THAT IT
WILL COMMENCE SEA TRIALS IN MARMARA JULY 7. IN ADDITION TO
CONDUCTING NORMAL OPERATIONAL CHECKS, MTA SISMİK I REPORTEDLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISTANB 02519 071355Z

WILL CALIBRATE SOPHISTICATED EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT DURING TRIAL

PERIOD. AS SOON AS IT COMPLETES TESTS SATISFACTORILY, MTA SISMİK I IS TO BE TURNED OVER TO MINERAL RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION INSTITUTE (MADEN TETKİK ARAMA ENSTITUSU), IN MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, WHICH WILL OPERATE SHIP.

2. MILLİYET STORY DESCRIBES TECHNICAL OPERATION AS FOLLOWS: SISMİK I WILL TRAIL A 3600 METER-LONG CABLE TO WHICH "MICROPHONES" ARE ATTACHED. AT 100 METER INTERVALS COMPRESSED AIR CHARGES WILL BE FIRED TO OCEAN BOTTOM WITH "MICROPHONES" RECORDING REVERBERATIONS. DATA COLLECTED WILL BE USED TO PLOT ACCURATE MAP OF OCEAN BOTTOM. ARTICLE STATES ACCURACY POSSIBLE AS RESULT OF SATELLITE-LINKED NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT ENABLING SHIP TO PINPOINT ITS POSITION AT ALL TIMES

3. ALTHOUGH NO DATE HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR SISMİK I'S EXIT FROM THE MARMARA TO AEGEAN SEA, PRESS REPORTS ESTIMATE VESSEL WILL BE READY FOR EXPLORATORY OPERATIONS WITHIN TEN DAYS. USUALLY RELIABLE MILLİYET ON JULY 7 QUOTES FONMIN SPOKESMAN SEMİH AKBİL AS SAYING MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT SHIP WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER AEGEAN. AKBİL DENIED HAVING STATED THAT SISMİK I WOULD DEFINITELY MOVE TO AEGEAN ON JULY 15.

4. COMMENT: COMPLETION OF CONVERSION OF HORA TO SISMİK I ON SCHEDULE (REF A) WILL ENABLE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO COMMENCE CONTINENTAL SHELF OPERATIONS IN AEGEAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTION. EVEN IF VESSEL'S EQUIPMENT IS NOT ENTIRELY CALIBRATED WITHIN TEN DAY PERIOD, SHIP COULD OPERATE IN AEGEAN BEGINNING ABOUT JULY 15 AS SIGN TO GREECE THAT TURKEY NOW HAS SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITY TO ESTABLISH HER RIGHTS IN AREA

5. INTERESTING ASPECT WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM SERIES OF ARTICLES IS STRONG DEGREE OF NATIONAL PRIDE INVOLVED IN HORA CONVERSION. FOR EXAMPLE, LATEST MILLİYET STORY CITES "FOREIGNERS" AS SAYING TURKS WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO INSTALL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, WHEREAS REFITTING WAS COMPLETED IN "RECORD TIME". IN OUR VIEW WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY ON SISMİK I CONVERSION AND NATIONAL PRIDE ASSOCIATED WITH THE VESSEL AND ITS MISSION, REINFORCE POLITICAL IMPERATIVE OF COALITION GOVT TO DEMONSTRATE IT IS PROTECTING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISTANB 02519 071355Z

TURKISH NATIONAL INTERESTS IN
SENSITIVE AEGEAN AREA. BATJER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SHIPS, PRESS COMMENTS, DATA, SISMIK I R/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISTANB02519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760261-0720
From: ISTANBUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760785/aaaacwkc.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ISTANBUL 2339, 76 ANKARA 5029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH VESSEL MTA SISMIK I BEGINS SEA TRIALS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006